THE

HEROINES OF THE BIBLE;

OR,

The Women of Sacred History.

IN THREE VOLUMES

FOR THE INFANT SCHOOL, CHILDREN UNDER FIFTEEN YEARS, AND THOSE OF MATURER AGE.

BY REV. P. C. HEADLEY.

III.—FOR ADULTS.

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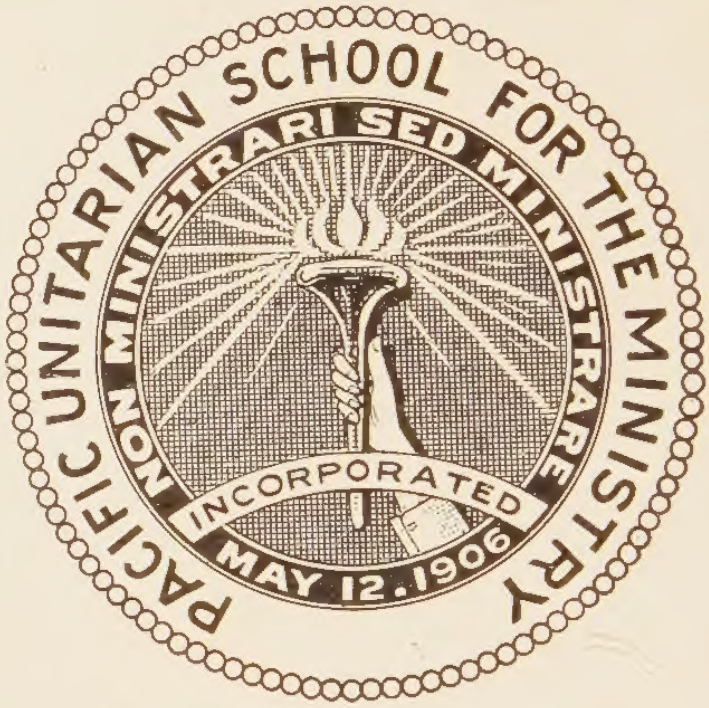

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A NEW SERIES OF QUESTION BOOKS

ON

The Heroines of the Bible;

OR,

THE WOMEN OF SACRED HISTORY.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

FOR THE INFANT SCHOOL, CHILDREN UNDER FIFTEEN YEARS, AND THOSE OF MATURER AGE.

BY REV. P. C. HEADLEY,

AUTHOR OF "WOMEN OF THE BIBLE," etc., etc.

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PREFACE.

THE publishers of this additional help in the study of the scriptures, cheerfully acknowledge that the "Heroes of the Bible," by Dr. Clark, prepared the way for the series; indeed, created the necessity for the supplementary work. The Heroines of the Bible, the noble Hebrew women, who figure in the sacred annals, had a part in the wonders of God's providence and grace, which must have a distinct record; not only to give them their merited honor, but to illustrate the wisdom and goodness of God in the great and blessed achievements of their faith and love. The questions have been adapted, as nearly as possible, to three classes — the youngest minds in our Sabbath Schools; the next grade beyond them, under fifteen years; and those of maturer age.

The object, therefore, of this series, is to give woman her appropriate and indispensable place in

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Scripture History, and clearly associate with her name, the interesting facts which God connected with her agency in a world's redemption.

It is in behalf of the wives, mothers, and sisters, in ancient and modern Israel, we offer these volumes, hoping and believing that they will aid in the proper study of the Bible, and appreciation by children and youth of the praying hearts that love them in the quiet and cherished scenes of home.

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QUESTIONS

ON THE

HEROINES OF THE BIBLE.

THIRD SERIES. — FOR YOUTH.

[ABBREVIATIONS. — f. c., first clause of a verse; m. c., middle clause; l. c., last clause.]

LESSON I.

EVE, THE FIRST WOMAN.

1. Who was the first woman?

2. How did God create Eve? Gen. ii. 21, 22.

3. Why was she called woman?

4. What does her own name signify?

5. Is there any relationship in human life more sacred than marriage? Gen. ii. 24; Matt. xix. 6.

6. Was man created a social being?

7. What passage seems to recognize the social principle in the Divine existence, while it proves the doctrine of the Trinity? Gen. i. 26.

8. What was the earliest and highest form of social life? *Ans.* The home.

9. What great religious system ignores that principle, and, therefore the divine order of soci-

ety? *Ans.* The Roman Catholic, by its nunneries, convents, and doctrine of celibacy in the priesthood.

10. What verses of Scripture pointedly condemn these heresies? 1 Tim. iv. 1, 2, 3.

11. With whom did Eve meet in her walks? Gen. iii. 1.

12. Why did Satan speak through the serpent?

13. In what form did he present the temptation to disobey God?

14. What was Eve's first and fatal mistake?

15. How did Satan improve this advantage gained? Gen. iii. 4.

16. What appeal did he next make? Gen. iii. 5.

17. Was the tempter successful? Gen. v. 6.

18. What humiliating feeling at once marked the change in character?

19. What did she now attempt to do?

20. Is there any secure hiding-place for sin? Num. xxxii. 23; Psa. cxxxix. 1–4.

21. How did Eve excuse herself when questioned by God respecting her sin? Gen. iii. 13, l. c.

22. Is there any apology for sin in the sight of God?

23. What curse did God pronounce against Eve?

Ans. She must be a dependent wife and suffering mother.

24. Why did the devil first approach Eve instead of Adam?

25. May we infer that God's curse upon the serpent changed the nature and appearance of that reptile?

26. With what bright promise did God light up Eve's sad departure from Eden? Gen. iii. 15.

27. What were the earliest human habitations? *Ans.* Caves, clefts in the rocks, and tabernacles made from forest boughs.

28. How many of Eve's offspring are mentioned in the Bible?

29. What was the first form of death in her family and in the world?

30. Is death in every form the result of sin? Rom. v. 12.

31. Why were sacrifices offered? Heb. ix. 22, 23, 24.

32. What were the first altars? *Ans.* A rock, a heap of stones, a bank of earth, or a hill-top.

33. Since the first sin of Eve, what has been required to make human offerings acceptable to God? Psa. li. 16, 17.

LESSON II.

SARAH, THE HEROINE OF PALESTINE.

1. What woman is mentioned by name next to Eve? Gen. xi. 29, m. c.

2. How long a period had elapsed between the creation of Eve and the birth of Sarai?

3. How many years from the time Noah and his family left the ark to repeople the world?

4. Why is no more recorded about woman during those early ages?

Ans. They had but little to do directly with the events recorded in the Bible.

5. Why is Sarai so honorably noticed?

6. Where did Sarai pass her early life? Gen. xi. 28, l. c.

7. In what country was Ur?

Ans. In Armenia, which lies in the western part of Asia.

8. Who were the Chaldees?

Ans. Originally wild mountaineers of Armenia, who conquered Babylon and became a powerful nation.

9. How much younger was Sarai than Abram!

10. Where did the family go from Ur? Gen. xi. 31, l. c.

11. What member of the family died there? Gen. xl. 32, l. c.

12. What branch of the emigrating household remained there, and was conspicuously connected with later Hebrew history?

13. Has this family separation on the border of Canaan any corresponding reality here in regard to the Heavenly Canaan?

14. Where was the first Hebrew home in Canaan? Gen. xii. 6.

15. To what part of Canaan did the pilgrims next remove? Gen. xii. 8.

16. What affliction came upon them in their wanderings? Gen. xii. 10, f. c.

17. Is this the first mention of such a calamity in Scripture?

18. Where do we next hear of Sarah? Gen. xii. 14, f. c.

19. Why was Egypt less subject to dearth and want than Canaan?

20. Was Sarah remarkable for her beauty? Gen. xii. 14, l. c.

21. Is beauty a coveted and dangerous gift?

22. In what sin did Sarai's beauty involve both her and her husband? Gen. xii. 11, 12, 13.

23. Was the statement a direct falsehood?

24. How did God reveal and rebuke the sin? Gen. xii. 17, 18.

25. Does God require us to speak the truth always, and leave the result with him? Zech. viii. 16, m. c.

26. What fearful threatening has he uttered against the untruthful? Rev. xxi. 8, l. c.

27. Who alone will escape a similar doom?

LESSON III.

SARAH, THE FIRST HEBREW MOTHER.

1. Whom did Sarai take with her from Egypt upon her return to Canaan? Gen. xvi. 1, l. c.

2. What did Sarai do with her?

Ans. Gave her to Abraham for a secondary or subordinate wife.

3. Was this arrangement common in the East?

4. Were there, anciently, customs tolerated by God, which, in the light we enjoy, would be criminal?

5. Why did Sarai wish Abram to have another wife subject to her?

Ans. Having herself no offspring, she thought God might intend Hagar to be the mother of a promised son.

6. What name was given by God to Hagar's child? Gen. xvi. 16, l. c.

7. What does the name signify?

8. Does God always hear the prayer of faith? Matt. vii. 8; xvii. 20, m. c. and l. c.

9. Does he always answer in the way the believing heart anticipated?

10. When was Sarai's name now changed? Gen. xvii. 1, 2, 15.

11. What is the meaning of Sarah?

12. Where do we next hear of Sarah? Gen. xviii. 1, 2, 6.

13. Who were these strange guests?

14. What beautiful and practical allusion is made to this incident? Heb. xiii. 2.

15. How did Sarah receive the assurance of the angels, that she should have a son of her own? Gen. xviii. 12, f. c.

16. What made her laugh?

17. When they reproved her, what did she say? Gen. xviii. 15, f. c.

18. Was not this repeated untruthfulness evidence of great weakness of character?

19. What did Jesus say to his disciples respecting the fear of man? Matt. x. 28.

20. Is every person exposed to some temptation peculiar to his own character?

21. Does God exercise great patience and tender care toward his people? Psalm ciii. 13, 14.

22. What became of Lot's wife, Sarah's niece? Gen. xix. 17, m. c. and 26.

23. What practical truth is taught by this event?

24. Where do we next hear of Sarah, after the destruction of Sodom! Gen. xx. 1, 2.

25. Was this only a repetition of the folly and sin in Egypt?

26. What was the result? Gen. xx. 3.

27. Why is "honesty the best policy?"

28. Where was Isaac born? Gen. xxi. 5, 34.

29. What does the word Isaac signify?

30. How old was Sarah?

Ans. Ninety years.

31. What insult did Ishmael offer to his rival brother? Gen. xxi. 8, l. c. 9.

32. How did Sarah resent the wrong? Gen. xxi. 10, 14.

33. On what interesting family occasion do we hear afterwards of Ishmael? Gen. xxv. 8, 9.

34. Have we any evidence that Sarah knew at the time, that Abraham took Isaac to Mt. Moriah for sacrifice?

35. Is an unconditional surrender of all we have to God's disposal, necessary to acceptance with him? Matt. x. 37, 38.

36. Where did Sarah die? Gen. xxiii. 2, f. c.

37. What was her age? Gen. xxiii. 1, f. c.

38. Where was she buried? Gen. xxiii. 19.

39. Is it right to make our burial-places externally pleasant to the eye?

40. What question overshadows all the mere circumstances of death and burial?

41. Does a pious mother, whether living or dead, make a child's debt of gratitude and responsibility to God, very great?

LESSON IV.

REBEKAH, THE BEAUTIFUL HEROINE OF FAITH AND LOVE.

1. With whom did the aged Abraham enter into a solemn engagement to find a wife for Isaac? Gen. xxiv. 2, f. c.

2. To what country was the servant sent? Gen. xxiv. 4.

3. What was the name of that country? Gen. xxiv. 10, l. c.

4. Who lived there? Gen. xi. 31.

5. Why was it necessary to send to that distant country to find a bride for Isaac?

6. How long was the journey?

Ans. About four hundred miles.

7. What was the mode of travelling? Gen. xxiv. 10, f. c.

8. Why were there so many camels?

9. When the servant approached Nahor, how did he express his living faith in God? Gen. xxiv. 12.

10. What special token of God's guidance did he ask? Gen. xxiv. 13, 14.

11. Was God's will often made known in those early ages, by supernatural revelations?

12. How does God now guide his people in answer to prayer?

13. Who came to the well and gave the desired sign? Gen. xxiv. 15.

14. Was Rebekah remarkable for her beauty? Gen. xxiv. 16, f. c.

15. How did the wondering servant show his admiration of Rebekah? Gen. xxiv. 22.

16. What interesting conversation followed? Gen. xxiv. 23–25.

17. What impression did the discovery that Rebekah was Abraham's niece make upon the mind of the devout servant? Gen. xxiv. 24, 26, 27.

18. How did Rebekah show her filial and amiable disposition? Gen. xxiv. 28.

19. Is this duty of a reverent and loving respect for parental authority affected at all by the age of a child?

20. What member of the family extended a cordial welcome to the servant? Gen. xxiv. 29, 31.

21. Will you quote the fine description of ancient Eastern hospitality? Gen. xxiv. 31–33, f. c.

22. What incident indicated the noble fidelity of Abraham's servant? Gen. xxiv. 33, m. c.

23. What effect did the servant's eloquent statement of the origin and progress of his mission have on Rebekah's father and mother? Gen. xxiv. 51.

24. How did their reply affect him? Gen. xxiv. 52, l. c.

25. What token of the servant's gratitude, and his master's wealth was then given? Gen. xxiv. 53.

26. How was his request to begin his homeward journey received the next morning? Gen. xxiv. 55.

27. Did the servant yield to the tender entreaty? Gen. xxiv. 56.

28. What three words in that characteristic reply should be every young person's motto, in regard to the heavenly Master's call to duty?

29. To whom was the question of the servant's immediate departure finally referred? Gen. xxiv. 57.

30. What was her prompt and noble reply? Gen. xxiv. 58, l. c.

31. Should you ever hesitate a moment, when God shows you what he would have you do? Acts v. 29, l. c. James iv. 7.

32. Will you repeat the beautiful description of the departure of the caravan? Gen. xxiv. 60, 61.

33. What was Isaac doing when the travelling company came near his home? Gen. xxiv. 63.

34. What great example of habitual retirement and devotion have we in the New Testament?

35. Do you have daily and stated seasons of meditation and prayer?

36. Why did Sarah think when she saw the man in the field that he was Isaac?

37. What did she then do to show her respect for him? Gen. xxiv. 64, 65, l. c.

38. What did Isaac do? Gen. xxiv. 67, f. c.

39. What expression is applied for the first time to domestic attachment? Gen. xxiv. 67, m. c.

40. Why is this?

Ans. It is the first marriage recorded where they had been previously strangers, and shows that God had prepared them for the meeting.

41. What touching allusion is made to Sarah's death? Gen. xxiv. 67, l. c.

42. Does God always comfort his trusting ones in affliction?

LESSON V.

REBEKAH, THE MOTHER OF ESAU AND JACOB.

1. How long after the marriage of Rebekah were the twin brothers, Esau and Jacob, born?

Ans. Twenty years.

2. Why was Jacob, Rebekah's favorite son?

3. Was this partiality wrong?

4. Is favoritism ever justifiable in a family?

5. Which of the brothers did the father intend should have the birthright?

6. What honors and privileges did the birthright confer on the first-born?

Ans. He was the priest and head of the family, and had a double portion of his father's property.

7. Was it fraternal or just in Jacob, to take advantage of Esau's hunger to secure his transfer of the birthright to him?

8. Was it in harmony with his general character?

9. Why, then, did he do it?

Ans. His mother had taught him to expect, and fired his ambition to obtain, this pre-eminence.

10. What calamity is now mentioned the second time in Canaan? Gen. xxvi. 1, f. c.

11. To what place did Isaac's family remove on account of it? Gen. xxvi. 1, l. c.

12. Into what sin did Isaac and Rebekah fall, committed there by Abraham and Sarah, almost a century before? Gen. xxvi. 7.

13. To what more deliberate deception did she resort, when Isaac was on his dying bed?

14. Was Isaac's part in this transaction evidently the result of Rebekah's controlling influence?

15. Was deception to secure a desired end thought to be as sinful then as now?

16. What passage in the New Testament throws light on this question of comparative guilt and responsibility? Acts xvii. 30, f. c.

17. What was Rebekah's great mistake and sin in procuring, as she did, the divinely appointed blessing for Jacob?

Ans. Presumption: she took her own way to carry out God's design.

18. What severe trials did her wrong-doing bring upon her and on Jacob?

Ans. Esau's heathen wives destroyed her peace, while he was plotting the murder of his brother.

19. In what sense does God punish transgressors in this life? Prov. xiii. 15, l. c.

20. Where alone will all unpardoned sin receive its merited punishment?

21. When and where did Rebekah die?

22. What may we infer from this silence?

Ans. That trouble and grief continued to be her lot, and hastened her death.

23. Have we reason to believe that Rebekah went to heaven?

24. Are you prepared to enter into its holiness and joy?

LESSON VI.

RACHEL, THE SYRIAN SHEPHERDESS.

1. Whose daughter was Rachel? Gen. xxviii. 1, 2.

2. In what country was Padan-aram?

Ans. In Syria, also called Mesopotamia.

3. How was Rachel related to Rebekah?

4. What was Rachel's occupation?

Ans. She was a shepherdess.

5. Why was it necessary to have persons devoted to the care of the flocks?

6. Was it common for the daughters of the nomadic chiefs to keep the sheep?

7. What beautiful illustration does Jesus draw from this employment? John x. 11.

8. Does this language apply to your own experience?

9. What traits of Rachel's character are revealed by this glimpse of her life?

10. How was she surprised one day at the well where she watered the sheep? Gen. xxix. 1, 10.

11. How was Jacob affected when he learned who Rachel was? Gen. xxix. 11.

12. Why did he weep?

13. What did Rachel do? Gen. xxix. 12, l. c.

14. Why, probably, is nothing said about her mother?

15. When Laban proposed to pay Jacob wages for his labor, how did he answer? Gen. xxix. 18.

16. Did Laban fulfil his part of the agreement?

Ans. No; he gave Jacob an elder sister, Leah.

17. What reason was assigned by Laban for breaking his promise? Gen. xxix. 26.

18. Was it a sufficient excuse?

19. Did Jacob still claim Rachel? Gen. xxix. 30, l. c.

20. Was polygamy regarded as wrong in that age?

21. What sect in our country hold the custom to be of divine authority?

22. Did Jacob return to Canaan? Gen. xxxi. 17, 18.

23. Had Rachel a son? Gen. xxx. 25.

24. What became of the boy?

25. How did Jacob show his tender regard for Rachel and Joseph? Gen. xxxiii. 1, 2.

26. Where did Rachel die? Gen. xxxv. 19.

27. Did she name a son while dying? Gen. xxxv. 18.

28. What does it mean?

29. When may a good mother use the language with bitter truth?

30. Did Jacob leave a token of his respect and love over Rachel's grave? Gen. xxxv. 20.

31. In Rachel's experience, and that of every other person, what imperishable memorial of life is left behind after death?

32. What will be the nature of that legacy to the world, which you will leave, if the present indicate the endless future?

LESSON VII.

MIRIAM, THE SISTER OF MOSES AND AARON.

1. Whose daughter was Miriam? Ex. vi. 20, l. c.

2. To which of the tribes of Israel did Amram belong? Ex. ii. 1.

3. To what service was the tribe set apart?

4. How was Levi related to Joseph?

5. Who was his mother? Gen. xxxv. 23.

6. Where was Miriam born?

7. How long had her ancestors dwelt there?

8. Was she an only daughter?

9. What does Miriam mean?

10. Can you think of any reason for the name?

11. What name in the New Testament is a synonyme of Miriam?

12. How is Miriam first mentioned in the Bible? Ex. ii. 4.

13. In what did she display great intelligence? Ex. ii. 7, 8.

14. How old was she then?

15. What reason have we for supposing Miriam's home was near the river Nile?

16. Mention some other facts and features of the Nile, which give it prominence in sacred and profane history?

17. What lovely traits of character are revealed by Miriam's part in the scene by the Nile?

18. Will you mention some particulars in this history from the launching of the ark of bulrushes to the exodus of Israel, which clearly illustrates a particular providence?

19. Where do we infer Miriam and Aaron were, while Moses was in Pharaoh's palace and in Midian?

20. What does this silence in Scripture, which so often occurs, teach us?

LESSON VIII.

MIRIAM IN THE WILDERNESS.

1. Where does Miriam next appear after her wanderings by the Nile? Ex. xv. 20, 21.

2. What form of musical service does Miriam's part indicate?

3. Is there any instrument of music now corresponding to the ancient timbrel?

4. Is the first mention made of dancing here?

5. What did the word originally signify?

Ans. To leap for joy.

6. Was there any similarity between the dancing approved in the Bible and that of the modern amusement?

7. Where is music by the voice and instruments first spoken of in the Bible? Gen. xxxi. 27.

8. Is it a duty to learn, if possible, to sing?

9. If so, why?

10. Does the Bible teach us that all will sing, and play upon an instrument of music in heaven? Rev. xiv. 2, 1. c., 3, f. c., xv. 2, 3.

11. In what sad scene does Miriam next appear? Num. xii. 1, 2.

12. How long before this affair had Moses married Zipporah?

13. Where had she passed the intervening years? Ex. xviii. 1, 2.

14. What two evil passions were now active in Miriam's heart?

15. Is the subjection of every passion to Christ, a condition of acceptance with Him.

16. What promise takes away every excuse for failure in this warfare? 2 Cor. xii. 9, f. c.

17. What single word in the charge against Miriam indicates her groundless hostility to Moses?

18. What other and shorter word would express sincerity under supposed wrong?

19. How are we to understand the expression, and the "Lord heard it?"

20. Did God reprove and punish the conspirators? Num. xii. 5, 9, 10.

21. How was Aaron affected? Num. xii. 11.

22. Did Moses display a noble spirit? Num. xii. 13.

23. Was this character exemplified by the great Redeemer of his people? Luke xxiii. 34, f. c.

24. Was the prayer of Miriam's meek brother heard? Num. xii. 14, l. c.

25. How did the people express their regard and respect for Miriam? Num. xii. 15, l. c.

26. Where did Miriam die? Num. xx. 1.

27. How long was her death after she watched the ark on the Nile?

28. Did Miriam see Canaan?

29. What does Paul say about the heavenly Canaan? Heb. iv. 11.

30. Have you "entered into that rest" of soul, which is enjoyed here, by the people of God.

LESSON IX.

DEBORAH, THE PROPHETESS AND JUDGE.

1. Who was Deborah? Judges iv. 4, f. c.

2. Have we any account of her childhood and youth?

3. In what position does she first appear in sacred history? Judges iv. 4, l. c.

4. What was that office, and when appointed in Israel?

5. Where did Deborah live! Judges iv. 5, f. c.

6. How do you understand this allusion to her manner of living?

7. What was the condition of Israel? Judges iv. 1, 2, 3.

8. What revelation did God make to Deborah? Judges iv. 6, 7.

9. How did Barak answer her call to the command of Israel's troops and to victory? Judges iv. 8.

10. In what particulars did this answer show defective character?

11. How did Deborah regard the words of Barak? Judges iv. 9, f. c. and m. c.

12. Did Deborah go with Barak? Judges iv. 9, l. c.

13. How large an army had Barak? Judges iv. 10, m. c.

14. Who was king Jabin's general? Judges iv. 12, f. c.

15. Had he a strong force? Judges iv. 13.

16 What noble battle-cry did Deborah raise when she and Barak came in sight of the hostile troops? Judges iv. 14, f. c. and m. c.

17. Can you mention the memorable events connected with Mount Tabor?

18. Which army won the victory? Judges iv. 15, 16.

19. What became of Sisera? Judges iv. 17, 22.

20. Was the conduct of Jael justifiable?

21. Was the splendid victory celebrated? Judges v. 1.

22. Were the highest honors of the conquest given to woman?

23. Should woman desire and have political rights and offices in common with man?

24. What victories, far greater in results and glory than war's triumphs, are in the reach of every person? Romans viii. 37, l. c.

25 Are you thus securing the "crown of life," and learning the song of eternal victory?

LESSON X.

THE HEROINE OF SACRIFICE, JEPHTHAH'S DAUGHTER.

1. Who was Jephthah?

Ans. The son of Gilead, and of the tribe of Manasseh.

2. Did his half-brothers conspire against him? Judges xi. 2.

3. To what place did he flee? Judges xi. 3, f. c.

4. Where is Tob supposed to have been?

5. What was the character of Jephthah?

6. What honor was conferred upon him in his exile? Judges xi. 6.

7. On what conditions did he finally consent to take command of the army? Judges xi. 9, 10.

8. What vow did Jephthah make to God? Judges xi. 30, 31.

9. Was the vow pleasing to God?

10. What state of mind did it indicate?

11. How much truth is there in the proverb, "A rash promise is better broken than kept?"

12. Will you quote the word of God respecting our vows to him? Psalms l. 14; Ecc. v. 4, 5.

13. Did Jephthah conquer the Ammonites? Judges xi. 33.

14. Upon his triumphal return to his home who met him? Judges xi. 34.

15. Of what similar celebration of a great victory does it remind you?

16. How long was it before this scene?

17. Did Jephthah welcome his daughter? Judges xi. 35.

18. Was the rejoicing daughter a gifted and noble woman? Judges xi. 36.

19. What favor did she ask?

Ans. Two months of solitary mourning among the mountains over her untimely fate.

20. Was she then sacrificed upon an altar? Judges xi. 39, f. c.

21. Is it doubted by some Biblical scholars that she was really slain?

22. What pagan nations now sacrifice human victims to their gods?

23. Are we commanded to offer ourselves upon a spiritual altar? Romans xii. 1.

24. How did the women of Israel express their admiration of Jephthah's daughter? Judges xi. 40.

25. What strong language does the Bible use, respecting the contrast between the value and final estimate, of the influence of the righteous and the wicked in the world? Prov. x. 7.

26. Would your death leave to the world that legacy of the justified through the great Sacrifice for sin?

LESSON XI.

RUTH, THE MOABITISH HEROINE.

1. Who wrote the story of Ruth?

Ans. The prophet Samuel is supposed to have been the author, although it is not certain.

2. Where was she born?

3. From whom were her people descended?

4. Was the nation pagan?

5. Where did the country lie?

Ans. Eastward and south of Judea to the Dead Sea.

6. Who were the parents of Ruth?

Ans. We do not know; tradition makes her a princess.

7. Whom did she marry?

8. How came Naomi and her family in Moab? Ruth i. 1, 2.

9. What became of Elimelech? Ruth i. 3.

10. Who married the brother of Ruth's husband. Ruth i. 4, m. c.

11. Did the sons soon follow their father to the grave? Ruth i. 5.

12. What words of Christ are the language of true submission and peace in the time of trouble? Luke xxii. 42.

13. How long had Naomi been in Moab when she decided to return to Bethlehem? Ruth i. 4, l. c.

14. Why did the three widows start for Bethlehem in Judah? Ruth i. 6, l. c.

15. What light is shed on the character of the Moabitish women by their willingness to go with Naomi?

16. What occurred after the journey was commenced? Ruth i. 8, 9,

17. Why, with devoted affection existing between them, did Naomi desire the daughters-in-law to return to Moab?

18. Did they yield to her entreaty? Ruth i. 14.

19. Why do you suppose Orpah went back?

20. What became of her?

21. Where in modern geography is the land of Moab?

22. Does Orpah's history teach us any impressive lesson in regard to the Heavenly Canaan? Luke ix. 62; Rev. iii. 21.

23. Why are Canaan in the Old Testament, and Jerusalem in the New, favorite symbols of heaven?

24. Have you secured citizenship in that kingdom of glory — the New Jerusalem?

LESSON XII.

RUTH, THE GLEANER.

1. What reply did Ruth make to Naomi's entreaty to leave her and return to Moab? Ruth i. 16, 17.

2. Was there a young man of earlier Hebrew history, whose character and course of action resembled Ruth's? Heb. xi. 24, 25.

3. Did Naomi consent to let Ruth accompany her? Ruth i. 18.

4. What must have been the general aspect and means of travel toward Bethlehem?

5. How were the strangers received on their arrival? Ruth i. 19.

6. What was the effect of this welcome upon Naomi? Ruth i. 20, 21.

7. Can you give the signification of Mara?

8. When did the pilgrims reach Bethlehem? Ruth i. 22, l. c.

9. What season of the year was that?

10. Had Naomi a relative in Bethlehem? Ruth ii. 1.

11. Did Ruth propose a plan to obtain material support? Ruth ii. 2.

12. Into whose fields did Ruth go? Ruth ii. 3.

13. Did she know to whom the estate belonged at the time?

14. Was there a special providence in this incident?

15. Was there a national statute in behalf of gleaners? Lev. xix. 9.

16. When Boaz came to see his reapers, did Ruth awaken peculiar interest? Ruth ii. 5, l. c., 6, 7, 8, 9.

17. How did this generous civility affect Ruth? Ruth ii. 10.

18. What reasons did Boaz give for his deep interest in Ruth? Ruth ii. 11, 12.

19. Does his address indicate any marked qualities of character?

20. What fact in nature does the expression, "under his wings," allude to?

21. Was it a favorite illustration with David? Psalms xvii. 8, l. c.; xxxvi. 7; lxi. 4, l. c.; lxiii. 7, 8; xci. 4.

22. On what solemn occasion did Jesus use the figure? Matt. xxiii. 37.

23. Will these words apply to every lost neglecter of the great salvation?

24. How did Ruth reply to Boaz? Ruth ii. 13.

25. In what light does this language present the character of Ruth?

26. Will you explain the last expression in the 13th verse?

27. How did Boaz show his appreciation of the Moabitish exile? Ruth ii. 14, 15, 16.

28. How long that day did she reap, according to the Jewish mode of dividing time? Ruth ii. 17, f. c.

29. What did she do with the barley? Ruth ii. 17, 18.

30. How was the grain beaten out?

31. What was the measure of an ephah?

Ans. Three pecks and three pints?

32. Was God's hand gratefully acknowledged by Naomi? Ruth ii. 20.

33. What counsel did Boaz give to Ruth? Ruth ii. 21.

34. Did Naomi approve it? Ruth ii. 22.

35. Why was this advice so emphatically given by both?

36. Was Ruth domestic in her habits, and a rare example of dutiful conduct? Ruth ii. 23.

37. Are dependent parents, irrespective of qualities of character, entitled to the tender care of children?

38. What precious promises had God given to fatherless families? Psalms lxviii. 5.

LESSON XIII.

RUTH, THE HEBREW MOTHER.

1. When the season for gleaning was past, what did Naomi propose to Ruth? Ruth iii. 1–4.

2. Was the object a worthy one?

3. Was Ruth entitled to a place in the kinsman's family, according to the common law of the times?

4. Did Ruth obey, unhesitatingly, her mother-in-law's suggestion? Ruth iii. 5, 6, 7.

5. May we not believe that this act of obedience was a great trial to her feelings?

Ans. It must have been next in severity to the loss of her husband in Moab?

6. When Boaz discovered Ruth, what was his manly and devout address to her? Ruth iii. 9, 10, 11.

7. Of what was the spreading of the skirt of a robe over a person the token?

8. Did Boaz recognize his duty to the family of Naomi? Ruth iii. 11, 12, 13.

9. Was Boaz generous in deed as well as in word? Ruth iii. 15.

10. How was Ruth received by Naomi? Ruth iii. 16, f. c.

11. What did Naomi mean by the question, "Who art thou?"

12. Did Ruth report faithfully to her mother-in-law? Ruth iii. 16, l. c., 17.

13. Was the confidence of Naomi in God's providence, and in the character of Boaz, perfect? Ruth iii. 18.

14. Was Boaz true to his promise made to Ruth? Ruth iv. 1–10.

15. In what light does this narrative present the character of all immediately concerned?

16. How were the elders of Israel, and the people with them, affected by the result of the negotiations? Ruth iv. 11.

17. How did the women, who were friends of Naomi, feel when Ruth had a son? Ruth iv. 14, 15.

18. Should all our undertakings be attended by prayer and thansgiving? Phil. iv. 6.

19. Was Ruth favored in the care of her child? Ruth iv. 16.

20. What name was given to Ruth's son? Ruth iv. 17, f. c. and m. c.

21. Why was that name chosen?

22. Whose father and whose grandfather was Obed? Ruth iv. 17, l. c.

23. What glorious truth in the gospel kingdom did this marriage of a Gentile to David's ancestry shadow forth? Matt. xv. 18, 21; Rom. xv. 12.

24. Did God greatly honor Ruth for her faith and unselfish love?

25. Does he ever fail where the trust is perfect?

26. Are your faith and hope in God?

LESSON XIV.

HANNAH, THE MOTHER OF SAMUEL.

1. Have we any account of Hannah's early life?

2. Who was her husband? 1 Samuel i. 1.

3. Where was Ramathaim-Zophim?

4. What does the word mean?

5. Had the place another name afterwards?

6. What is meant by "an Ephrathite"?

7. Had Elkanah more than one wife? 1 Samuel i. 2, f. c.

8. Did Elkanah's experience furnish proof that this practice was a great mistake and error of the times?

9. Was Elkanah a godly man? 1 Samuel i. 3.

10. Which of the two wives was preferred by Elkanah?

11. Of what family, who lived at an earlier age, does this remind you?

12. Had the wives offspring? 1 Samuel i. 4.

13. What was the character of Peninnah? 1 Samuel i. 6.

14. Was this spirit the habitual tone of her life? 1 Samuel i. 7.

15. Was this trial the occasion for displaying the righteous and noble character of Elkanah? 1 Samuel i. 8.

16. How did Hannah receive the tender reproof? 1 Samuel i. 9, 10.

17. What does Christ say of persecution? Matt. v. 10.

18. Have peace-makers a special benediction? Matt. v. 9.

19. Where was Shiloh?

20. Why did the people go there to worship? Deut. xii. 5, 6, 7; Joshua viii. 1.

21. What vow did Hannah make? 1 Samuel i. 11.

22. Was her prayer in the temple audible? 1 Samuel i. 12, 13, l. c.

23. Into what harsh judgment did this lead Eli? 1 Samuel i. 13, l. c., 14.

24. Were meekness and piety characteristic of Hannah under the cutting suspicion? 1 Samuel i. 15, 16.

25. How was Eli affected by this beautiful answer? 1 Samuel i. 17.

26. Was Hannah's communion with God followed with peace? 1 Samuel i. 18.

27. Is humble, believing prayer the only source of peace?

28. Where did she then go? 1 Samuel i. 19.

29. Is any further mention made of Peninnah?

30. Were the prayer and vow of Hannah accepted of God? 1 Samuel i. 20, l. c.

31. Did she redeem her vow? 1 Samuel i. 24, 25.

32. What touching allusions did she make to her former visit? 1 Samuel i. 26, 27, 28.

33. How did Hannah celebrate the joyful consecration? 1 Samuel ii. 1–10.

34. Was this a prayer or song of praise?

35. Where do we hear again of Hannah? 1 Samuel ii. 18, 19, 20.

36. Did she have other children? 1 Samuel ii. 21, f. c.

37. Do we have any knowledge of the family after this date?

38. What peculiar distinction had Samuel?

Ans. He was the last of the judges.

39. Is it the duty of parents to consecrate their children unreservedly to God?

40. Have you, for yourself, entered into covenant with him?

LESSON XV.

ABIGAIL, THE WIFE OF DAVID.

1. Who was king of Israel when Samuel died?

2. Where was David, the son of Jesse? 1 Samuel xxv. 1, l. c.

3. To what rich nomade of the wilderness did the exiled chieftain send for supplies? 1 Samuel xxv. 3, f. c.

4. Did the words desert and wilderness mean the same thing as now?

5. Had Nabal a noble and beautiful wife? 1 Samuel xxv. 3, m. c.

6. From whom was Nabal descended? 1 Samuel xxv. 3, l. c.

7. What does Nabal signify?

8. Who was Caleb? Num. xiii. 1, 2, 6, 30, 31; and xiv. 30.

9. How were David's messengers received by Nabal? 1 Samuel xxv. 10.

10. What was the effect upon David? 1 Samuel xxv. 13.

11. Who was informed of the threatened destruction? 1 Samuel xxv. 14, f. c.

12. What was the meaning of her name?

13. How did Abigail show her great superiority to her husband? 1 Samuel xxv. 18, 19.

14. How did David receive her, when she bowed before him and begged for mercy? 1 Samuel xxv. 32, 33.

15. Upon her return home, did Abigail display rare wisdom and courage? 1 Samuel xxv. 36, 37.

16. What became of Nabal? 1 Samuel xxv. 38.

17. Does Jesus teach us the fatal snare of riches without the fear of God? Luke xii. 16–21.

18. Did Abigail win the admiration and love of David? 1 Samuel xxv. 39, l. c.

19. Upon what new errand, now, did the messengers go to the home of Abigail? 1 Samuel xxv. 40.

20. Did not Abigail exhibit amiability and modesty of character, as well as heroism? 1 Samuel xxv. 41.

21. Was she willing to leave her home of wealth for the camp of David? 1 Samuel xxv. 42.

22. What truths are taught in this narrative of Nabal and Abigail?

23. Have not good wives and mothers often saved households, or members of them, from a greater ruin than that which threatened Nabal's family?

24. Is the world, in any form of idolatry, alluring you to eternal ruin?

LESSON XVI.

THE QUEEN OF SHEBA.

1. Who succeeded David to the throne of Israel?

2. In what particulars did Solomon's reign excel his father's?

3. What distant and distinguished sovereign heard with deep interest of his glory? 1 Kings x. 1.

4. Is there evidence in this passage of a desire to know the true God?

5. Where was Sheba?

6. What is Sheba now called?

7. Was the country rich and beautiful?

8. By what other name in history is the queen of Sheba known?

Ans. Balkis.

9. Were the people of her country physically superior?

Ans. They are described as the most perfect in form of any other people.

10. Did the queen travel with great magnificence? 1 Kings x. 2, f. c.

11. How long was the journey?

Ans. More than twelve hundred miles.

12. What period of time did it require?

Ans. About three months.

13. What traits of character were displayed in the enterprise?

14. How did Christ refer to the wonderful story? Matt. xii. 42.

15. What reception was given to the royal stranger by Solomon? 1 Kings x. 3.

16. Was Balkis deeply affected by what she saw? 1 Kings x. 4, 5.

17. Did the reality exceed her anticipations? 1 Kings x. 6, 7.

18. Who in all ages, past and to come, can say of their King's glory, and the riches he gives them, "the half was not told me"?

19. What did the queen say of Solomon's servants? 1 Kings x. 8.

20. Has not Jesus pronounced a similar benediction upon his servants? Luke xii. 35–38.

21. Was there in the character of Balkis, evidently deep religious feeling? 1 Kings x. 9.

22. Did she practically express her admiration to Solomon? 1 Kings x. 10.

23. How did Solomon reciprocate her generosity? 1 Kings x. 13, f. c.

24. What impression does this interview give of the dignity and refinement of the two sovereigns?

25. Does the queen of Sheba now disappear from the view entirely? 1 Kings x. 13, l. c.

26. Have we any hints in history of the effect of her visit to Solomon upon her own people?

Ans. It is recorded that the good Maccabees, less than two centuries before Christ, propagated a pure religion more readily in Sheba than elsewhere, and that the people were morally superior to the rest of the Arabians.

27. Whose loyal subjects will all wear unfading crowns? James i. 12; Rev. ii. 10, l. c.

28. Is there one prepared for you?

LESSON XVII.

JEZEBEL, THE SIDONIAN PRINCESS.

1. In what view of her career may we call Jezebel a heroine?

Ans. She was daring and courageous in wickedness.

2. Who was king over Israel? 1 Kings xvi. 28, l. c.

3. Was there another Hebrew king and kingdom at this time?

4. Who were left to form the realm called Judah?

5. Was Ahab pre-eminent in sin? 1 Kings xvi. 30.

6. Whom did he marry? 1 Kings xvi. 31.

7. What does Jezebel mean?

Ans. "Not inhabited."

8. What allusion did Christ make to Tyre and Sidon? Matt. xi. 20, 21, 22.

9. Is the principal god of those cities mentioned? 1 Kings xvi. 32.

10. What was the form of this image?

11. Was it Jezebel's ambition, aided by Ahab, to make Baal the god of Israel? 1 Kings xvi. 33.

12. Did the Lord's prophets fall before this attempt to revolutionize the national religion? 1 Kings xviii. 4.

13. How did Elijah, the prince of the earlier prophets, escape? 1 Kings xvii. 2, 3, 4.

14. What was the effect upon Jezebel of the slaughter of her priest, after the trial of their divinity on Mt. Carmel? 1 Kings xix. 2.

15. Was she able to execute her threat? 1 Kings xix. 3.

16. Whose vineyard, soon after, did Ahab covet? 1 Kings xxi. 2.

17. Is covetousness a great sin? Ex. xx. 17; Col. iii. 5, l. c.

18. What was the result of the negotiation with Naboth? 1 Kings xxi. 3.

19. Did the occasion disclose a very mean and selfish spirit? 1 Kings xxi. 4.

20. Was Jezebel equal to the emergency? 1 Kings xxi. 5–7.

21. What plot was immediately laid by her? 1 Kings xxi. 8, 9, 10.

22. Why was a fast ordered?

23. To what custom is allusion made by the expression, "Set Naboth on high among the people?"

24. Who were the "sons of Belial?"

25. What was the charge against Naboth?

26. Was the plot successful? 1 Kings xxi. 11–16.

27. Was there a special curse for Jezebel in the threatened vengeance of God upon the house of Ahab? 1 Kings xxi. 23.

28. Who was annointed king at God's command, in place of Jehoram, Ahab's son, to execute the divine wrath? 2 Kings ix. 1–7.

29. What was the fate of Jehoram in the war he waged against Jehu? 2 Kings ix. 24.

30. Did Jezebel's doom follow the victory of Jehu over Jehoram and Ahazi king of Judah? 2 Kings ix. 30–35.

31. Was the family tragedy complete? 2 Kings x. 11.

32. Does God now thus deal with ungodly families?

33. Is the quiet work of mutual ruin for eternity of an irreligious family any the less fearful in the light of that future abode?

34. What will the judgment day reveal respecting your part in the character and destinies of home?

LESSON XVIII.

ATHALIAH, THE QUEEN OF JUDAH.

1. Who was Athaliah?

2. Did she resemble her mother in character?

3. Have we any account of her early life?

4. What did her womanhood indicate respecting her girlhood?

5. Is mature character ordinarily a fair index of early training?

6. When is there a radical change for the better in habits and disposition?

7. What do we mean by disposition?

Ans. The disposing of one's self.

8. To whom was Athaliah married?

9. Was Athaliah's character improved by the judgments upon her father's family?

10. What is always the result on character of affliction?

11. What terrible crime after the death of her husband and son did Athaliah commit? 2 Kings xi. 1.

12. Who were the "seed royal"?

13. Was she successful in her sanguinary purpose of extermination? 2 Kings xi. 2.

14. What was the motive in this assassination?

15. How long was Joash hidden? 2 Kings xi. 3.

16. What did the high-priest now do? 2 Kings xi. 4.

17. Were great and careful preparations made to protect Joash from the wrath of Athaliah? 2 Kings xi. 5–11.

18. For what grand occasion were these precautions taken? 2 Kings xi. 12.

19. Did the acclamation of the people reach Athaliah's ear? 2 Kings xi. 13.

20. How was she affected by the scene? 2 Kings xi. 14.

21. What is treason?

22. Who was traitor in this case?

23. Have we any later examples of this fatal self-delusion?

24. Did Jehoida act wisely and promptly? 2 Kings xi. 15, 16.

25. Can we doubt that Jezebel and Athaliah had a meeting and recognition after death?

26. Does Christ shed light on the question? Luke xvi. 27, 28.

27. Must not such meeting of the lost be fearful?

28. Can any one tell to what crimes he may be led in the service of Satan?

29. Where alone is there perfect safety for this, and the future life?

LESSON XIX.

THE SHUNAMITE.

1. Who was the Shunamite?

2. Where was Shunem situated?

3. Why is this woman mentioned in the Bible at all? 2 Kings iv. 8.

4. Did Christ very emphatically declare the value, in his sight, of kindness to his servants? Matt xxv. 40.

5. What are we to understand by the expression, "a great woman?"

6. What wicked queen, the bitter enemy of God's people, was living in Israel?

7. How many years before the advent of Christ was this time?

8. Was hospitality characteristic of the East?

9. What did the Shunamite propose to her husband to have done for Elisha? 2 Kings iv. 10.

10. Did her special reason indicate a godly household?

11. To what custom did the new apartment suggested have reference?

12. Does the inventory of furniture prove a scanty supply?

13. Had the words stool and candlestick a signification similar to that of the present day?

Ans. "Stool" meant the best seat used, and the same word is translated *throne;* while the candlestick was a lamp which would burn all night.

14. Did the man of God evidently enjoy his chamber? 2 Kings iv. 11.

15. In his meditations, was the Shunamite gratefully remembered? 2 Kings iv. 12, 13, f. c. and m. c.

16. Was she elated with the prospect of honor or riches from the king? 2 Kings iv. 13, l. c.

17. What did that answer express?

18. Who was the king referred to here?

19. With whom did the prophet then confer respecting some token of gratitude? 2 Kings iv. 14.

20 What was Gehazi bidden to do? 2 Kings iv. 15.

21. Was the greatest earthly blessing to a Hebrew household promised? 2 Kings iv. 16.

22. What befell the boy given by God, in answer to Elisha's prayer, a few years later? 2 Kings iv. 18, 19, 20.

23. Where did the disease have its seat?

24 Does this fact suggest the possible cause?

25. Is not the number of deaths from unnecessary exposure, and abuse of the system greater than that from all other causes?

26. Did not Christ very emphatically condemn all needless risk of life and health? Matt. iv. 7.

27. Is not a moment's exposure of the soul to eternal death a greater crime?

LESSON XX.

THE SHUNAMITE, A HEROINE OF FAITH.

1. What did the Shunamite do with her dead son? 2 Kings iv. 21.

2. Did this act indicate an expectation of miraculous interposition?

3. Was the course immediately adopted further evidence of lingering hope? 2 Kings iv. 22.

4. Did her husband's reply show a contrary state of mind? 2 Kings iv. 23, f. c. and m. c.

5. What was the meaning of "new moon" and "Sabbath" in this connection?

6. Was her answer evasive? 2 Kings iv. 23, l. c.

7. Why did she reply thus?

8. Did the result show the greatest confidence of the husband in his afflicted wife? 2 Kings iv. 24.

9. Why was the Shunamite in such haste?

10. Did she find Elisha? 2 Kings iv. 25.

11. Upon her approach, what did the prophet do? 2 Kings iv. 26, f. c. and m. c.

12. How did she reply? 2 Kings iv. 26, l. c.

13. Was this true?

14. Did the Shunamite exhibit great confidence and regard towards Elisha? 2 Kings iv. 27, f. c.

15. How did Gehazi treat the unfortunate woman? 2 Kings iv. 27, m. c.

16. Why was this interference?

17. Was it approved by the prophet? 2 Kings iv. 27, l. c.

18. What do you understand by the prophet's not being told of the sad event?

19. Was the Shunamite's allusion to her loss very delicate and touching? 2 Kings iv. 28.

20. How did the prophet express his sympathy? 2 Kings iv. 29.

21. Did the mother trust Gehazi? 2 Kings iv. 30.

22. Was the servant successful in his experiment? 2 Kings iv. 31, f. c.

23. Why this failure?

24. How did Elisha meet the emergency? 2 Kings iv. 33, 34, 35.

25. Does the scene shed any light on the necessity and power of prayer?

26. Is there a greater restoration to life which depends on wrestling prayer?

27. When the child looked up, who was called to return the resurrection glance? 2 Kings iv. 36.

28. Did the mother show grateful reverence and humility? 2 Kings iv. 37.

29. Was there anything in her manner of receiving her son alive, that confirms the indications that she expected the great blessing?

30. Where do we next hear of the Shunamite? 2 Kings viii. 1, 2.

31. What new affliction attended her return to her home? 2 Kings viii. 3.

32. Was there a special providence to aid her in her suit? 2 Kings viii. 4, 5.

33. Was she successful in her petition? 2 Kings viii. 6.

34. What were the two greatest earthly blessings with which the Shunamite's kindness to God's servant was rewarded?

35. How far is it right to be influenced by fear of punishment, or hope of reward in the service of God?

LESSON XXI.

ESTHER, THE HEBREW EXILE.

1. Who wrote the book of Esther?

2. Where did she live?

3. How came she there? Esther ii. 6; 2 Chron. xxxv. 11, 13, 17, 20.

4. How long before Esther is mentioned were the Jews carried into captivity?

5. Were is Persia?

6. What does the word Esther mean?

Ans. A star.

7. What did her Jewish name, Hadassah, mean?

Ans. Myrtle.

8. Who was king of Persia at this time? Esther i. 1.

9. Can you give the origin and general position of Persia among the nations, past and present?

10. What was the state of the empire in Esther's day?

11. How did Ahasuerus celebrate his victories and glory? Esther i. 3, 4.

12. Is Ahasuerus known by any other name in history?

13. What additional feast crowned the six months' festival? Esther i. 5.

14. Was it magnificent? Esther i. 6, 7.

15. Was there not one regulation decreed by the king worthy of universal observance? Esther i. 8.

16. How was the queen employed? Esther i. 9.

17. What foolish command was issued on the last day of the feast? Esther i. 10, 11.

18. What seductive enemy of reason and conscience led him to the rash act?

19. Did Vashti obey the mandate? Esther i. 12, f. c.

20. What was the office of chamberlain?

21. How did the king feel? Esther i. 12, l. c.

22. Did he act promptly? Esther i. 13, 14, 15.

23. What was the result? Esther i. 16–21.

24. Was there some force in the reply of the chamberlains?

25. Did Vashti act wisely?

26. What trait in her character was finely displayed?

27. Should mere power ever be the bond in the domestic relation?

28. Who spoke for the chamberlains?

29. Was the king pleased with the report?

30. What action did Ahasuerus take? Esther i. 22.

31. Do we know anything more about Vashti?

32. Is it always a duty, and therefore safe, to obey the convictions of conscience?

33. What is conscience?

34. Do you live under the authority of a divinely enlightened conscience?

LESSON XXII.

ESTHER, THE PERSIAN QUEEN.

1. What advice did the king's chamberlains give him after the divorce of Vashti?

Ans. That he should seek another beautiful wife. Esther ii. 1, 2, 3.

2. What Jew seems to have had some office about the king' palace? Esther ii. 5.

3. Who lived with him? Esther ii. 7, f. c.

4. Why was she with Mordecai? Esther ii. 7. m. c. and l. c.

5. Did she visit the palace? Esther ii. 8.

6. What impression did Esther make at the royal residence? Esther ii. 9.

7. Was her origin known? Esther ii. 10.

8. How was Mordecai's affection and interest cherished for Esther displayed? Esther ii. 11.

9. How long were the maidens kept at Shushan in accordance with a singular law of the realm? Esther ii. 12, f. c.

10. What provision was made for the appearance of the maidens before the king? Esther ii. 13.

11. Did Esther manifest a desire for display? Esther ii. 15, f. c.

12. Is there not a declaration in the New Testament applicable to her rare character? 1 Peter iii. 3, 4.

13. Did the modest Jewess surpass in attractions all the daughters of Persia? Esther ii. 15, l. c., and 16.

14. Was the new queen a favorite? Esther ii. 17, 18.

15. What great service did Mordecai render about this time to the king? Esther ii. 21, 22, 23.

16. Who was made the king's chief prince? Esther iii. 1.

17. Was special homage required by Ahasuerus for his favorite? Esther iii. 2, f. c.

18. Who refused to obey the command? Esther iii. 2, l. c.

19. How was Mordecai's course regarded at court? Esther iii. 3.

20. Did Mordecai show great decision of character and moral courage? Esther iii. 4, f. c.

21. Why did Mordecai refuse to bow to Haman?

22. Was his course right?

23. How did Mordecai's course affect Haman? Esther iii. 5.

24. Why did not Haman put his enemy at once out of the way? Esther iii. 6, f. c. and m. c.

25. What fearful plot did the haughty Amalekite lay? Esther iii. 6, l. c.

26. Did Haman seek direction from his pagan oracle? Esther iii. 7.

27. What does this mean?

Ans. A lot was cast before Haman, every day for twelve months, to find the best time to destroy the Hebrews.

28. When did the assassin decide to strike down God's people?

Ans. The 13th of Adar, a festival held during a part of February and March.

29. What was the next step in Haman's dark design? Esther iii. 8, 9.

30. Is it a common thing for the wicked to misrepresent the people of God? Matt. v. 11, 12.

31. Was the king led by his partiality for Haman to act blindly and rashly? Esther iii. 10, 11.

32. What was the significance of handing Haman the royal ring?

33. Did Haman promptly use his power? Esther iii. 12–15.

34. How was Mordecai affected by the crisis? Esther iv. 1, 2.

35. Were all the Jews similarly afflicted? Esther iv. 3.

36. Did Esther hear of the mourning before she knew the cause? Esther iv. 4.

37. What did the queen do? Esther iv. 5, 6.

38. Was Esther fully informed of the impending slaughter? Esther iv. 7, 8, 9.

39. How did the queen reply? Esther iv. 10, 11.

40. What fitting answer did Mordecai send to Esther? Esther iv. 13, 14.

41. Was the queen decided by those noble words? Esther iv. 15, 16.

42. What expression is the language of a sinner's submission to Christ?

43. Can a sinner perish at Jesus' feet?

44. Why, then, is such language appropriate?

LESSON XXIII.

ESTHER, THE DELIVERER OF ISRAEL.

1. What heroic conduct followed the days of fasting? Esther v. i.

2. Was the queen successful in her suit? Esther v. 2, 3.

3. Did Esther ask a small favor? Esther v. 4.

4. Why was this modest request made?

5. Was the invitation accepted? Esther v. 5.

6. What conversation transpired at the table? Esther v. 6, 7, 8.

7. How was Haman affected by all this apparent success? Esther v. 9, f. c.

8. Does God's word assure us that such glory and gladness are brief? Job xx. 4, 5; Prov. xvi. 18.

9. Was there very soon upon Haman's path a shadow of that threatened disaster? Esther v. 9, l. c.

10. How was the guilty soul's wretchedness revealed? Esther v. 10–13.

11. Had Zeresh a heart and a ready plot to aid her husband? Esther v. 14.

12. What remarkable incident now changes the aspect of Mordecai's affairs? Esther vi. 1–3.

13. Who troubled the king's sleep?

14. Do you find answers to prayer in that scene at the couch of Ahasuerus?

15. What was Haman doing? Esther vi. 4, 5.

16. Was the interview satisfactory to Haman? Esther vi. 6–11.

17. Why did Haman suggest honors so conspicuous?

18. How was the proud Amalekite affected by the unexpected turn of affairs? Esther vi. 12, 13.

19. What was the reason in the mind of Zeresh, for the fear she expressed of her husband's fall.

20. Did the king and Haman attend Esther's banquet? Esther vii. 1.

21. Was the queen's unknown petition forgotten? Esther vii. 2.

22. Did Esther hesitate any longer to unburden her heart? Esther vii. 3, 4.

23. How was Ahasuerus affected by the intelligence? Esther vii. 5.

24. Did the reply of the queen display moral courage? Esther vii. 6, f. c.

25. Was the condition of Mordecai and Haman suddenly changed? Esther vii. 6, l. c., 7.

26. What counsel was offered by one of the king's chamberlains? Esther vii. 9.

27. Had Haman reached the limit of his career of ambition and crime? Esther vii. 10.

28. Is there at this crisis of affairs a touching exhibition of the Hebrew family? Esther viii. 1, 2.

29. Was Esther satisfied with the honors lavished on her and Mordecai? Esther viii. 3–6.

30. What qualities of character were illustrated in this interview?

31. Did Ahasuerus grant the queen's petition? Esther viii. 7–14.

32. Why were the Jews required to fight for their lives, instead of an having unconditional pardon?

33. How did Mordecai and his countrymen receive the new decree? Esther viii. 15, 16, 17.

34. What was the result of the conflict, on the days appointed by Haman for the slaughter of the Jews? Esther ix. 2.

35. Were Haman's sons involved in their father's ruin? Esther ix. 10, 13, 14.

36. In what way was the great deliverance commemorated? Esther ix. 21, 22, 26, f. c.

37. Why was the feast named Purim?

38. Is any name of Jehovah mentioned in the Book of Esther?

39. Why is this?

40. Do we not see most clearly a special providence?

41. What lessons are especially taught by this wonderful story?

LESSON XXIV.

ELIZABETH, THE MOTHER OF JOHN THE BAPTIST.

1. Who was the first remarkable woman in New-Testament history?

2. What is meant by New Testament?

3. How long after Esther's reign was it begun?

4. How long was it from the close of the Old Testament to the beginning of the New?

5. Who wrote the only account of Elizabeth we have?

6. What does Elizabeth mean?

Ans. "Covenant God."

7. Whose wife was Elizabeth? Luke i. 5.

8. What do you understand by her being "of the daughters of Aaron"?

9. Did Aaron's wife have the same name?

Ans. Yes; Elisheba of the old, is Elizabeth of the new.

10. What was the character of Elizabeth? Luke i. 6.

11. Had she children? Luke i. 7.

12. How was Zacharias employed? Luke i. 8, 9.

13. Who appeared to him while before the altar of incense? Luke i. 11.

14. What did the angel say, to calm the fears of Zacharias? Luke i. 13, 14.

15. Was the promise, that Elizabeth should have a son, believed? Luke i. 18.

16. How was his unbelief rebuked? Luke i. 19, 20.

17. Who was Gabriel?

18. How many times is he mentioned by name in the Bible?

19. Who visited Elizabeth? Luke i. 39, 40.

20. What region and city are referred to in these verses?

21. Was Elizabeth's son named by her friends? Luke i. 59.

22. Did their choice please the mother? Luke i. 60.

23. How did the father feel about it? Luke i. 63.

24. Why did the parents insist on calling the child John?

25. What does John mean?

26. Have we any knowledge of Elizabeth after the birth and naming of her son?

27. Why this silence?

28. Who was the cause of John's death?

29. Is there not a striking contrast between his mother who gave him to God, and the one who hastened his return to God in glory?

30. How, as in the history of Hannah, is there seen the power of maternal consecration in moulding character?

31. Is it the duty of every person to be wholly consecrated to God?

32. What do you understand by entire consecration?

LESSON XXV.

MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS.

1. To what place did Gabriel go six months after he visited Elizabeth? Luke i. 26, f. c.

2. Where was Galilee?

3. In what part of it was Nazareth?

4. Who attracted Gabriel's interest as God's messenger, there? Luke i. 27, f. c.

5. Who was to be her husband? Luke i. 27, f. c.

6. How did the angel salute Mary? Luke i. 28.

7. What effect had the heavenly visit on Mary? Luke i. 29.

8. Did Gabriel calm her fears? Luke i. 30.

9. Was a son promised her? Luke i. 31, l. c.

10. What additional words increased her amazement? Luke i. 35.

11. Did not the angel deepen the bewildering wonder of Mary by some interesting intelligence?

Ans. Yes; of the promised son to her cousin, Elizabeth.

12. Were not humility and humble trust conspicuous in the character of Mary? Luke i. 38.

13. Where did she then go? Luke i. 39, 40.

14. Was there in Mary a rare display of inspired genius when she heard the holy greetings of Elizabeth? Luke i. 46–55.

15. What may this burst of eloquence be called?

16. How long did Mary stay in the "hill country"? Luke i. 56.

17. Where do we next hear of Mary? Luke ii. 4, 5, f. c.

18. Why did the family repair to Bethlehem? Luke ii. 1, 2, 3.

19. Why was the Emperor so anxious to take a census at this time?

Ans. He was writing a history, and probably the principal object was to get an accurate enrollment, to aid him in his work.

20. Were any taxes really paid at the time mentioned in the above passages?

21. Where did Joseph's family stay?

Ans. In a place designed for travellers and their animals; probably a grotto or cave in or near Bethlehem, a common resort for shelter in the earlier ages.

22. Why was such a place their temporary abode?

23. What occurred in Mary's rude dwelling one night? Luke ii. 7, f. c.

24. Who at the same moment came to hills near Bethlehem? Luke ii. 9.

25. Is there reason to believe that resplendent being was Gabriel?

26. What tidings did he bring? Luke ii. 10, 11, 12.

27. Did a celestial choir then join the solitary herald of salvation? Luke ii. 13, 14.

28. What did the shepherds do? Luke ii. 16, 17.

29. How did these scenes affect Mary? Luke ii. 19.

30. Is this serious thoughtfulness upon God's word and providence a great want of the present age?

31. What became of the shepherds? Luke ii. 20.

32. Has Jesus, in his character as Redeemer, been seen by your believing heart?

LESSON XXVI.

MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS.

1. At what age was the name formally given to Jesus? Luke ii. 21.

2. Why was there this delay?

3. Where did Mary soon after take her child? Luke ii. 22, l. c.

4. What, besides her desire to express her gratitude, and offer him to the Lord, induced her to visit the holy city? Luke ii. 24.

5. Where is this law recorded? Lev. xii. 6.

6. Had God a wise and kind design in all these ancient laws for his people?

7. In regard to his mysterious ways, and our inclination to question his wisdom, what does he say? Isaiah lv. 8.

8. Who was in the temple when Mary entered it? Luke ii. 25.

9. What did he do with Jesus? Luke ii. 28.

10. Was Simeon ready now to die? Luke ii. 29–32.

11. How did the parents of Jesus feel? Luke ii. 33.

12. What stirring address was made by Simeon to Mary? Luke ii. 34, 35.

13. Will you explain the expressions, "fall and rising again," a "sign spoken against," and "a sword piercing her soul also"?

14. Who came into the temple at this moment? Luke ii. 36, 37, f. c.

15. How was her time spent? Luke ii. 37, l. c.

16. Did she at once recognize the infant Messiah? Luke ii. 38.

17. Where did the holy family then go? Luke ii. 39.

18. Were Joseph and Mary faithful worshippers of God? Luke ii. 41.

19. Ought every person to attend statedly some place of worship?

20. What was the passover?

21. How old was Jesus when his mother took him to the feast? Luke ii. 42.

22. Did Jesus return with his parents? Luke ii. 43.

23. Was a successful search made for the missing child? Luke ii. 44, 45, 46.

24. What were Mary's words to her son? Luke ii. 48.

25. How did he answer his parents? Luke ii. 49.

26. Were their views clear respecting the wonderful child? Luke ii. 50.

27. Did Jesus set a bright example of filial obedience? Luke ii. 51, f. c.

28. Was Mary perplexed and thoughtful about the ways and words of her son? Luke ii. 51, l. c.

29. Must there not have been very much in respect to both parents and child in Nazareth, of great interest, unrecorded?

30. Why are so few the family scenes found on the pages of history?

31. Where do we next hear of Mary? John ii. 1.

32. What did she say to him? John ii. 3.

33. How did Jesus reply? John ii. 4.

34. What did he mean?

35. Was Mary's confidence in the affectionate fidelity of her son beautifully expressed? John ii. 5.

36. Did Jesus make the wine of water? John ii. 9, f. c.

37. Does this first miracle of Jesus sanction the use of alcoholic drinks?

38. Where is Mary again spoken of in the Bible? Matt. xii. 46, 47.

39. Where do we next find her?

Ans. Following Jesus to Jerusalem to be crucified.

40. In what sad company is she next seen? John xix. 25.

41. Was Mary among the latest thoughts of Jesus on the cross? John xix. 26, 27.

42. What are the sweet lessons of this only allusion to earthly scenes, by the dying Saviour?

43. On what occasion is Mary last mentioned? Acts i. 12, 24.

44. Was there a special promise of her son, that kept the praying company there? Acts i. 4, 5, 6.

45. Was Mary saved like any other sinner?

46. Is there but one song of the Redeemed in heaven? Rev. i. 5, l. c.

LESSON XXVII.

MARY, THE IDOL OF ROME.

1. Why is the Papal church called Rome?

Ans. Because that city has always been the capital of the papal dominions, and it is the residence of the Pope.

2. Who is the Pope?

Ans. He is called in the Roman Catholic prayer-books, the "Bishop of Rome, Successor of St. Peter, Prince of the Apostles, and Vicar of Christ."

3. What do we mean by Mary being the *idol* of Rome?

Ans. The object of adoration by the Romanists.

4. What do they believe respecting Mary's birth?

Ans. That she was born sinless, as Jesus was.

5. Does the Bible teach this doctrine?

Ans. It does not give the least countenance to it.

6. Do the Roman Catholics deny that Mary had any other children besides Jesus?

Ans. They do.

7. What is the testimony of the Bible? Matt. i. 25.

8. Is the expression, "first born," ever used in the Bible where there was only one child?

Ans. It is not.

9. Can you mention some of the names applied to Mary by the Roman Catholics?

Ans. "Holy Mother of God," "Queen of Heaven," "Queen of all Saints," &c.

10. What passage of scripture do they quote to prove that it is right to adore Mary? Luke i. 28.

11. Was not such manner of salutation used on other occasions? Judges v. 24.

12. What form of adoration do the Romanists use in addressing Mary?

Ans. "O glorious Virgin Mary, I commend my soul and body to thy blessed trust," &c.

13. Does the Bible condemn all such worship as idolatry? Matt. iv. 10; Rev. xxii. 8, 9.

14. In what other character is she addressed?

Ans. As intercessor, next to Christ, if not equal to him. The following expressions are used:

"Turn, most gracious advocate, thy eyes of mercy towards us. * * Pray for us, O holy Mother of God."

15. What does "Ave Marie" mean?

Ans. Hail Mary! a form of invocation to the Virgin.

16. How do the Romanists say their prayers to the Virgin?

Ans. With a string of beads called a rosary, repeating prayers as they count the beads.

17. Is the Bible opposed to this offering of prayer to any of the saints in heaven?

Ans. Yes; not one such prayer is found in it? 1 Tim. ii. 5.

18. What is required by the Papal confession of faith?

Ans. That the "Saints, reigning together with Christ, are to be honored and invocated;" and that the "images of Christ, of the mother of God, ever virgin, and also of the Saints, may be had and retained, and that due honor and veneration is to be given them."

19. How do Romanists get along with the first and second commandments?

Ans. They are made one, and the expression "no other gods," is changed to *strange Gods*," and "graven image" to *graven thing*.

20. What lesson should parents, teachers, and children, learn from the Church of Rome?

Ans. The early and careful training of the mind in the knowledge and practice of true religion.

LESSON XXVIII.

THE WOMAN OF CANAAN, A HEROINE OF FAITH.

1. Where is the "woman of Canaan" mentioned? Matt. xv. 22, f. c.

2. By what other name is she known? Mark vii. 26, f. c.

3. Why were both terms proper?

4. Where did her country lie?

5. Why is she called a Greek?

6. What cities before alluded to were in that region? Mark vii. 24, f. c.

7. Where did Jesus go when he reached Syrophenicia? Mark vii. 24, l. c.

8. Was it the intention of Christ to see no one?

9. Why was his retirement short? Mark vii. 25.

10. Was there something mysterious in the case of this daughter?

11. Do we not nowadays find persons who seem to be completely under Satanic influence?

12. How did the woman address Jesus? Matt. xv. 23, m. c.

13. Where could a pagan get this knowledge of Christ?

14. Was her petition granted? Matt. xv. 23, f. c.

15. Why was he silent?

16. Were the disciples interested in the supplication? Matt. xv. 23, l. c.

17. What then did Jesus say? Matt. xv. 24.

18. What did he mean?

19. Did the woman yield to the apparent repulse? Matt. xv. 25.

20. Was she accepted now? Matt. xv. 26.

21. Why was this language used?

22. How did she answer Jesus? Matt. xv. 27.

23. What feelings were expressed in this reply?

24. Are these feelings characteristic of all true prayer?

25. Was Jesus pleased with the character of the woman? Matt. xv. 28, f. c. and m. c.

26. What was the result to her daughter? Matt. xv. 28, l. c.

27. Does it appear that Christ went to Canaan on purpose to help this woman, and develop her faith as a bright example? Matt. xv. 29, f. c.

28. Is prayer the only way of access by the sinful soul to God?

29. What must be the character of those who offer the prayer of faith?

30. Is it the hope of the world?

31. Who prays for us in heaven?

32. Do you love to pray?

LESSON XXIX.

THE POOR WIDOW, THE HEROINE OF BENEVOLENCE.

1. Where was Jesus when he saw the "poor widow"? Mark ix. 15.

2. What descriptive terms are applied in the bible to this place of worship?

3. To whom had Jesus been preaching? Mark xii. 37, l. c.

4. What fearless words were spoken? Mark xii. 38, 39, 40.

5. In what part of the temple was Jesus? Mark xii. 41, f. c.

6. Where was the treasury?

7. How was it arranged?

8. Were there large offerings made? Mark xii. 41, l. c.

9. Who came to the treasury while Jesus was watching the contributors? Mark xii. 42, f. c.

10. What do we learn of this widow's name and residence, in the bible?

11. How much did she give to the Lord? Mark xii. 42, l. c.

12. What were mites?

13. What was the value, in our money, of the widow's donation?

14. Did Christ pronounce his judgment on the act? Mark xii. 43.

15. In what view of the transaction is this true?

16. Have you elsewhere the divine rule of judgment? 1 Sam. ii. 3, l. c., and xvi. 7, m. c. and l. c.

17. What "graces of the Spirit" were conspicuous in the widow's character?

18. Does God ever disappoint such perfect trust?

19. Was the widow's example designed for imitation?

20. How is it to be applied to the various conditions in life?

21. Are there many who live according to the gospel rule in regard to money?

22. Is the refusal or neglect to conform to the standard given by Christ a great sin?

23. Will it exclude the soul from heaven?

24. Are you willing to deny yourself to save money for the cause of Christ?

25. Who gave all he had to redeem us?

26. Who will be the loser, Jesus or you, if you do not devote all you are and have to him?

LESSON XXX.

MARTHA AND MARY, OF BETHANY.

1. Where is first mention made of Martha and Mary? Luke x. 38.

2. What was the name of this village?

3. Where was it?

4. How was Jesus received by the sisters? Luke x. 39, 40.

5. What was there wrong in Martha's words to Jesus?

6. Did Christ reprove Martha? Luke x. 41.

7. Was it not right to attend to her household duties, according to the scripture, "Be diligent in business"?

8. Did Jesus commend Mary? Luke x. 42.

9. What was meant by the "good part"?

10. Have you chosen, with Mary, that "good part"?

11. Did the home in Bethany evidently become a place of resort to Jesus for rest and loving sympathy?

12. Why are not the parents of these affectionate children mentioned?

13. Did affliction darken the prospects of the family? John xi. 1.

14. Was Jesus applied to for help? John xi. 3.

15. Why were such words employed?

16. What did Jesus say? John xi. 4.

17. Was this true?

18. Would love alone, to them, have led Jesus to Bethany? John xi. 5.

19. Did he go at once? John xi. 6.

20. What else was said by Jesus? John xi. 7.

21. Were the disciples willing to go? John xi. 8.

22. How did Jesus answer them? John xi. 9. 10.

23. What did he mean?

24. Did he go to Betheny then? John xi. 11.

25. Why was it proper so to speak?

26. What reply was made by the disciples? John xi. 12.

27. Did they understand Jesus? John xi. 13. 14.

28. Was Jesus sorry that Lazarus had died? John xi. 15.

29. How do you explain the expression?

30. Who then spoke for the disciples? John xi. 16.

31. What was his meaning, and state of mind?

32. Do you desire and aim to submit to, and do the will of Jesus?

LESSON XXXI.

MARTHA AND MARY, OF BETHANY.

1. How long had Lazarus been buried when Jesus reached Bethany? John xi. 17.

2. Why did he delay so long his visit?

3. Was there great sympathy shown to the sisters by their neighbors? John xi. 19.

4. Was it customary to set apart a number of days for mourning? Gen. l. 3; Num. xx. 29; Deut. xxxiv. 8.

5. What did Martha do when she heard Jesus was coming? John xi. 20.

6. Why did Mary stay in the house?

7. How did Martha address the Saviour? John xi. 21, 22.

8. What state of mind was indicated by these words?

9. Was the reply of Jesus encouraging? John xi. 23.

10. Did Martha understand him? John xi. 25, 26.

11. Can you explain these apparent contradictions?

12. How did Martha answer the question respecting her faith in Jesus? John xi. 27.

13. What followed this declaration of faith? John xi. 28.

14. Was Mary glad to hear that Jesus came? John xi. 29.

15. Where was Jesus? John xi. 30.

16. How were the friends of Mary affected by her sudden departure? John xi. 31.

17. Was Mary's address to Jesus similar to Martha's? John xi. 32.

18. What effect had the sad scenes on Jesus? John xi. 33.

19. Why was he so moved?

20. What question was asked by Jesus? John xi. 34, f. c.

21. How did the mourners answer him? John xi. 34, l. c.

22. Was the Saviour's emotion very deep? John xi. 35.

23. What is there peculiar about this verse?

24. Is there any one more precious and suggestive in meaning?

25. How were the spectators affected? John xi. 36, 37.

26. What did Jesus then do? John xi. 38, 39, f. c.

27. Did Martha expect the resurrection of her brother? John xi. 39, l. c.

28. Was her unbelief rebuked by Jesus? John xi. 40.

29. What followed? John xi. 41, f. c.

30. How was Lazarus buried?

31. What lesson was taught by this rolling away of the stone?

32. Did Jesus teach again the worth of prayer? John xi. 42, l. c., 43.

33. What wonderful scene now transpired? John xi. 43, 44.

34. Were any of the Jews converted by the miracle? John xi. 45.

35. Where do we hear again of Mary? John xii. 1, 2, 3.

36. Where, in the light of revelation, may we believe the family of Bethany are now?

37. Are you anticipating the same blessedness in the Saviour's household above?

LESSON XXXII.

SAPPHIRA, THE VICTIM OF DARING HYPOCRASY.

1. Where did Sapphira live?

Ans. Evidently in or near Jerusalem.

2. Who was her husband? Acts v. 1, f. c.

3. How long after the resurrection of Christ are they mentioned?

4. Whose preaching had led many to believe in Christ? Acts iv. 13.

5. What was done by the disciples for their own mutual support? Acts iv. 34, 35.

6. Were Ananias and Sapphira anxious to join the disciples? Acts v. 1, l. c., 2.

7. What was there wrong in this transaction?

8. Can you give the probable motives which governed Ananias and Sapphira?

9. What did Peter say to Ananias? Acts v. 3, 4.

10. Who told Peter of the deception?

11. Had Ananias anything to say in reply to the fearful charges? Acts v. 5, f. c.

12. Was the effect upon the people deeply solemn? Acts v. 5, l. c.

13. What was done with the body? Acts v. 6.

14. Can you explain these allusions to the care of the dead?

15. Was Sapphira aware of her husband's fate? Acts v. 7.

16. What question was asked her? Acts v. 8, f. c.

17. How did she answer Peter? Acts v. 8, l. c.

18. Why was the inquiry made at all by Peter, if he knew the facts?

19. What followed the bold assertion of the falsehood? Acts v. 9, f. c.

20. Were words of awful doom then spoken? Acts x. 9, l. c.

21. What followed? Acts v. 10.

22. Why was the punishment so severe upon Ananias and Sapphira?

23. Whose great example of evil influence over a husband did Sapphira imitate?

24. To what other woman's fate is there a resemblance in the suddenness and fearfulness of the judgment?

25. Who had played the part of a deceiver and traitor not long before, and crowned his crimes with suicide?

26. Is it not a suggestive fact, that the fatal insult to the Holy Ghost soon followed an equally fearful act against the Redeemer, hurrying the criminals to their "own place" of torment.

27. What does God say of the hope of the hypocrite? Job xxvii. 8, 9.

28. Is there in the New Testament solemn warning of like import? Gal. vi. 7, f. c. and m. c.

29. Have not thousands perished forever, since the days of Sapphira, by attempting to be Christians, while keeping back "a part of the price" of salvation?

LESSON XXXIII.

DORCAS, THE HEROINE OF CHARITIES.

1. Where did Dorcas live? Acts ix. 36.

2. What other name had Dorcas?

3. Will you give its meaning?

Ans. "Antelope."

4. In what language?

Ans. Aramæan.

5. Where was it spoken?

Ans. In Aram, south of Palestine, and included in what was known as Syria.

6. To what dialect did the word Dorcas belong?

7. Where did Dorcas live?

8. Has it another name?

Ans. Jaffa.

9. What interesting historical facts can you mention respecting Joppa?

10. Who was Dorcas? Acts ix. 36, f. c.

11. Why is it only said, "a certain disciple"?

12. What gave Dorcas her imperishable place in sacred annals? Acts ix. 36, l. c.

13. Was Dorcas' usefulness interrupted? Acts ix. 37, f. c.

14. Was the love cherished for Dorcas seen in the care of her body? Acts ix. 37, l. c.

15. In their great trouble what did the mourners do? Acts ix. 38.

16. Why was Peter sent for by the friends of Dorcas?

17. Did they expect her restoration to life?

18. Had any of the apostles raised the dead?

19. Did Peter go to Joppa? Acts ix. 39, f. c.

20. How was Peter received? Acts ix. 39, m. c.

21. What affecting scene followed? Acts ix. 39, l. c.

22. What did Peter then do? Acts ix. 40, f. c.

23. Is this another lesson on the power of prayer?

24. Was the result in wonderful and glorious contrast with the spectacle of sorrow and death just before? Acts ix. 40, m. c. and l. c.

25. Did Peter request Dorcas to leave her bed? Acts ix. 41, f. c.

26. Why was this done?

27. Who were called? Acts ix. 41, l. c.

28. Why are not we told of the effect of the miracle upon these friends?

29. What impression was made upon the people in Joppa? Acts ix. 42.

30. Can you think of other reasons besides this

saving influence, for the performance of the miracle?

31. Does the Bible represent alms-giving and kindness to the poor as one of the first and most important Christian duties?

32. Is it possible to be charitable and kind to all, and yet be lost forever?

33. What does *charity* in the thirteenth chapter of First Corinthians?

LESSON XXXIV.

LYDIA OF THYATIRA, THE MACEDONIAN CONVERT.

1. Where did Lydia live when mentioned in the Bible? Acts xvi. 12, f. c.

2. Where was she born? Acts xv. 14, f. c.

3. What was her occupation?

4. Were the purple fabrics of that region remarkable?

5. Who preached in Philippi? Acts xvi. 40.

6. Where was Philippi?

7. How was Lydia affected by the preaching? Acts xvi. 14, l. c.

8. What followed Lydia's conversion? Acts xvi. 15, f. c.

9. Is a profession of religion required by grateful love to Christ, and his express command? Luke xxii. 19, 20.

10. How did Lydia show her regard for the servants of Christ, and her generous hospitality? Acts xvi. 15, m. c. and l. c.

11. Where did Christians in Philippi go to pray? Acts xvi. 13.

12. Why did they go there?

13. What occurred while Paul and Silas were on their way to the place of prayer? Acts xvi. 16.

14. Did not the damsel resemble in her vocation modern "fortune-tellers"?

15. Is it right to consult such impostors?

16. What did Paul do when she cried after him and Silas? Acts xvi. 18, m. c. and l. c.

17. Were her employers enraged? Acts xvi. 19.

18. What scenes followed during that night?

19. What took place in the morning? Acts xvi. 39.

20. Where did Paul and Silas go at once? Acts xvi. 40.

21. Will living faith lead the believer to the place of prayer?

22. Do we hear any more of Lydia?

23. Has you heart been opened to receive the gospel of salvation?

LESSON XXXV.

THE BRIDE OF CHRIST.

1. Where is the church represented by the relation of wife and mother? Isa. liv. 5, f. c.; Gal. iv. 26; Rev. xxi. 9, l. c.; Rev. xxii. 17, f. c.

2. What is the meaning of the word church?

3. How is the term used?

4. Are the different religious denominations one in religious life and hope?

5. Can you think of good reasons why God permitted these external divisions of his church?

6. Why is the church called the Bride of Christ? Hosea ii. 19, 20; Rom. vii. 4.

7. What remarkable figure does the Lord employ to express his love to Zion? Zach. ii. 8, l. c.

8. Is the church to be entirely devoted to Christ?

9. Did Christ seek his bride at a great sacrifice? Phil. ii. 7, 8.

10. Is the Bride worthy of the Bridegroom? Isa. lxiv. 6.

11. Will he yet make her the glory of the world? Isa. lxii. 2–5.

12. Why is the church likened to a mother? Psalms lxxxvii. 5.

13. Are the children of Christians to be trained for Christ?

14. How early should they be his by their own choice?

15. Will none in the visible church be lost forever?

16. Will the church become great in earthly beauty and power? Solomon's Song vi. 10.

17. Will the Bride's marriage have yet a fitting celebration? Rev. xix. 7, 8, 9, f. c.

18. What will become of all worldly heroes, heroines, and honors, not consecrated to Christ and his kingdom? Jer. xxiii. 28, l. c.; Matt. iii. 12.

19. Are you in the church, or ready to be so?

20. If so, where will you soon go to spend eternity? Rev. xxii. 3, 4. 5.

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